

Documentation Form

Unusual Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species: Harris' Sparrow, Two birds

Location: Home feeder, RR 4 Box 30

Habitat: small woods surrounding house in urban area

Date: Time: Length of observation: 12/27/98 1:30 PM for about five min.

Name and Address: Janet Forbes, RR 4 Box 30, Muscatine, IA 52761

Other Observers: none

Description of bird: documentation written by Gerald White 1505 E 5<sup>th</sup>. St., Muscatine, IA 52761, from interview with observer.

The bird was about the size of a House Sparrow; Shaped like a sparrow: The bird was described to have a black head on the top, black face, black throat, black upper part of the chest. The rest of the bird was described as looking like a sparrow. ( no recollection about specific body parts other than those mentioned)

Similar species and how eliminated: Looked up sparrows in the Peterson Eastern Bird guide and found the picture that matched the bird.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? She was the only observer

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions (light, distance, optics): sunny, about fifteen feet , no optics

Previous experience with this species and similar ones: She is familiar with Northern Junco, and House Sparrow

References and persons consulted before writing description: none except the first report of the sighting to Gerald White

How long before field notes made? This form completed? No notes made, report made 1/1/99